

Basic Text of Letter Follows:

The guiding principle of the Department of the Interior is what I call the Four C's: Consultation, Cooperation, and Communication, all in the service of Conservation. The Department is committed to management and protection of the monuments consistent with the Four C's, our interim management guidance, and the purposes established in the proclamations.

After reviewing all of the comments on each monument, I believe most of the issues can be addressed through the management planning process, which will include comprehensive public input. I have directed the managing agencies to maintain current uses during the interim management period, except to the extent restricted by the Proclamations and other applicable law or regulation, and have strongly encouraged them to use creative, non-traditional management options. I have also directed these agencies to utilize this opportunity to include you and your constituents at the outset of the planning process for the monuments.

Specifically, I am encouraging consideration of the following types of management approaches to the extent they are consistent with the Proclamations, and other applicable laws:

- Expanded opportunities for direct citizen participation in monument planning and stewardship management through citizen advisory councils, such as Resource Advisory Councils or other forms of local collaborative groups;
- Land exchanges as way of resolving access and resource protection problems with State lands, mineral and grazing interests, and wildlife habitat;
- Conservation and other creative easements that help to protect values in the monuments while respecting private property interests;
- Greater reliance on local governments, volunteer groups, and businesses to provide existing and new monument services through contracts and agreements;
- Partnership arrangements for management of ongoing, traditional activities, such as grazing, recreation, and other uses authorized by the monument proclamation; and
- A transportation plan that is developed with input from those who use the roads, trails, and waterways in the area.

Your involvement in assisting the Department of the Interior to develop the appropriate management strategy is invaluable. We welcome your comments and look forward to continuing to work with you.